

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

To provide a thin projector, such as a rear projector, formed by a less expensive projection optical system which is easy to assemble and install, and performing a highly accurate projection, projection light PL projected with a projection optical system onto a screen is linearly polarized light having a polarization azimuth along the longitudinal direction of the screen. With this arrangement, the right and left ends of the rear surface of the screen maintain a low reflectance, thereby reducing a loss in quantity of illumination light when passing through the screen, in other words, achieving high luminance of an image projected onto the screen while maintaining its uniformity of brightness.